

The Times-Dispatch

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How to Call The Times-Dispatch.

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Europe Must Take Our Meats.

As a result of the attack on our packing houses, exports of canned goods to London fell to 4,000 cases last month, as compared with 17,000 cases in June, 1905. In July of last year, 24,000 cases were received at the Albert Docks, but to date, this month, not a single case. On top of this crushing report comes a dispatch which informs us that a speaker at a recent sanitary inspectors' conference in Bristol, England, told the assembly that if the English people only knew "one-quarter of what was going on in the English slaughter-houses, the Chicago scare would become insignificant by comparison."

But what are the poor English people to do? They won't buy our meat, because they say it is impure; their own is equally objectionable, and the public must be fed. Indeed, the food situation in England is one of the standing problems of the world. One of our consultants, Mr. E. D. Walker, sends the interesting and highly illuminating information from Burslem, a little town in England of about 31,000 population, that according to a local authority the supply and provisions are scarce and dear. Mr. Walker says in this report:

"America is more and more using up its own wheat and corn. It is consuming more and more of the available beet sugar supply, so that though the last crop was one of the largest on record there is a shortage in England. Hence, a strong movement in England to establish the sugar-beet industry. Hops are in greater number in the United States, but Americans are eating more of their own hops, and Germany has begun to compete for the surplus for which England has been the chief market. Whereas Germany used to export provisions, she is now importing them in increasing quantities for herself. Even though English ports are free the population of the protected countries of Germany and America are becoming more luxurious, so that the foreign supply of food for England are diminished."

The extent of the German demand is indicated by a cable dispatch from Hamburg which states that the price of horse-flesh has risen 10 pence a pound, while dog flesh is finding a bigger market than ever before.

The truth is that the population of the world is increasing and the consumption of good food by that population will greatly increase also. It has been said that America wastes enough food to keep an equal number of people alive in European countries. Certainly an equal number of Chinese could live upon what we carelessly throw away. But we are still producing far more than our needs require. Germany still has some wheat and pork for export, but the growth of the cities and manufacturing classes of Germany is rapidly absorbing its surplus supply of food. England could not exist a month if the food supply from other countries were cut off. Her navy, therefore, is not so much an offensive as a protective measure. Without her mastery of the sea England could be starved into submission without firing a shot or wounding a combatant.

President Roosevelt may have been over strenuous in his agitation of the packing-house inquiry, but the law of supply and demand will, for a long time to come, compel European nations to use large quantities of our meats and cereals.

Vanishing Fish.

A recent editorial in this paper on the joys of fishing has been made the subject of extended comment by the Christian Sun, of Elton, N. C. Our contemporary makes the pertinent observation that an occasional stocking of the streams in the mountains by the State or the government is a farcical and futile redress for the damage that is done to the fishing interests of this State by allowing the present use of fish ponds to go uncorrected. When the Odyssey was written, Poseidon, ruler of the sea, was called by Homer "Lord of the unharvested deep." To-day that appellation would no longer be fitting, for the system of strutting nets far out into the channels and along the shore of such States as Virginia is not only harvesting the produce of the ocean, but with ruthless disregard of the future, is destroying the very basis upon which edible fishes exist. We have too long nourished the delusion that the gifts of the sea were inexhaustible. We have seen the buffalo become practically as extinct as the wingless bird of New Zealand. The Rocky Mountain sheep has become in this country almost as rare as white elephants are in Burma. The black bear and the mountain trout in a great number of streams in Virginia are absolutely vanished, and now the sturgeon, the eel, the bluefish, the sheepshead and the drum are all following in the wake of the other wild animals which have been destroyed by the senseless, ignorant and grasping cupidity of man. From

the days of John Smith, Virginia has had a priceless source of wealth in her fishing industry. Even to-day this industry can be made to produce far more than it does at present by scientific care and protection. Our contemporary does well to point out the disregard of all sensible regulations which has hitherto characterized the dealing of this State with this important subject.

Pure Milk Demanded.

Cities are more and more coming to an appreciation of the absolute necessity of pure milk if the lives of the children are to be preserved. Staunton has taken an important step in this direction by requiring all cows to be tested for tuberculosis. This requirement will be in force by August 1st, and all cows that are found to be infected will be removed. Commenting on this, the Staunton Dispatch says:

"This ordinance does not go far enough in conserving the health of the people. There should be provisions made for inspecting all dairies that furnish milk to Staunton and for enforcing cleanliness in milking and handling milk. It is lawful to take a fee of so much per cow to pay the expense of such inspection, whether the cows are inside the city or without. Norfolk has such an ordinance and in an appeal to the Supreme Court of the State was supported in its enforcement."

"Staunton ought to require just as much of those who sell milk in Staunton as to quality, purity, cleanliness, freedom from disease, as any other enlightened community requires. The people of Staunton are neglectful of their own interests so long as they fail to make these reasonable requirements."

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